

Asante Sana

UBORA

Lifting up a village to
transform a nation.

2023 Year-End Update

**CELEBRATING
SIX NEW HOMES
FOR WIDOWS**

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Special thanks to Jerry Black for this photo
and many of the photos featured in this issue!

UboratZ.org

Pamoja/Together



Message from the President

By: Dave Burgess

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Dear Ubora Family,

My "President's Letter" could easily span all 12 pages of this issue of Asante Sana! We've got so much exciting news to share from 2023 and the impact of our NGOs both here in America (as Ubora) and in Tanzania as SHEFO (Shelter of Hope and Excellence Foundation). That is me with my brother in Christ and counterpart from SHEFO, Baraka Lutherson. Rather than hearing it all from me, please continue reading for inspiring updates from our incredible team who make the magic of our ministry happen on both sides of the Atlantic.

As we wrap up 2023, a few words come to mind that I'd like to share with you...

Gratitude.

"Can you believe we get to do this work?" was a sentiment shared with the team who attended the graduation ceremony at Siha Leadership School in October. While the people of the village of Karansi are the intended recipients of the outpouring of Christian love and support through Ubora, in true Jesus fashion, He magnifies the blessing on the hearts and lives of those who give and serve! What a magnificent creator! I am truly grateful to play a small role in God's ongoing story of transformation in Karansi and the entire nation.

We are a small but mighty force armed with the sword of truth and the belief that poverty shouldn't limit potential. The work of transformation, however, takes time, people and financial resources. We each have an important role to play. For all those who go, give, pray and serve, I am eternally grateful for each and every one of you. It truly takes a village to do what we do.

Nervous Anticipation.

"Attempt something so great for God, it is doomed to failure unless God be in it," Haggai often said. The next few years are pivotal for Ubora, as we begin construction on the new land for the expansion of Siha Leadership School (SLS), allowing for doubling of school enrollment at the pre- and primary school and the creation of a new secondary school. Further, we are in talks with the Ministry of Education to see how we might partner together to bring STEM education to Tanzania not only for students of SLS but to those in government public schools as well. The right doors must continue to open for us in terms of significant funding to develop the school and STEM

curriculum and for future impact. I am ready and excited for the challenge!

But again, I need your help to make it happen!

Commitment to the Cause.

21 years now into our work in Tanzania, we are seeing progress in terms of holistic community transformation, but the work has really just begun. Systemic poverty is still one of the greatest challenges for developing countries in east Africa, including Tanzania. While we see tantalizing glimpses of hope and possibility in the village where we serve, there is still poverty, hunger and despair. We've made in-roads in helping transform education, and the children of SLS are thriving under the teaching methodologies found there, but the reality is that jobs are still precious and few for our graduates to pursue. Our Business team continues to do exceptional work in this area to help energize the local economy through training local business owners, providing a best-in-class internship program, and continuing to walk with graduates through to employment. We also have some exciting developments on the horizon in terms of our "K-Calling" initiative and helping to spur rural economic development through the creation of the Stewardship Center.

While the ultimate goal is sustainability of the village and district, we still have a ways to go. We remain committed to the cause until the work is done—however long that takes! And to do the work together—pamoja!

In His Precious Name,



Dave Burgess
President, Ubora Tanzania



Construction of Pastor Wariaeli's beautiful new PEFA Church of Karansi is nearing completion!

Grand opening celebration is scheduled for February 2024.

In true Tanzanian fashion, the new building has been in use for some time while under construction with only a partially covered roof, open-air windows and fundis (local carpenters) continually working. Already large crowds gather on Sunday to worship and hear the word of God. During the week, the church is used for large gatherings for widows and babas and also for smaller group meetings.

This bigger facility will allow for expanded reach into the area and creation of new programs within PEFA Church Karansi, including:

- Youth and teens ministry, including two seminars a year
- Ongoing discipleship programs
- Continued programming and support for widows and babas

"The youth, they need music," said Pastor Wariaeli. "The equipment we have is 15-years-old. In order to reach the youth, we must have better equipment than what we currently have."

Visit our Vimeo page for an interview and walk-through of the new facility with Pastor: [Vimeo.com/UboraTanzania](https://vimeo.com/UboraTanzania)

Our People

Meet Amani Nicolas

New Headmaster for SLS

We are truly delighted to introduce you to the new headmaster of Siha Leadership School, Amani Nicolas.

"Amani brings a great deal of talent, leadership and experience to SLS," said Ubora President Dave Burgess.

We sat down with Amani during a recent visit to Karansi to learn more about his heart for education and ministry and the opportunity at SLS.

Scan the QR code to watch the video! ■————→



Amani Nicolas



Amani, onsite at SLS.

Passing the Torch

Celebrating Terry and Adam

There is a new role transition that calls for a celebration of a life devoted to serving this ministry. Terry Mechling has been the Perimeter Church Country Leader for Tanzania since the very beginning. He has dedicated countless hours and shared his expertise and passion in this leadership position. We are so thankful to Terry for his many years of service.

Adam Weaver will assume the role of Country Leader officially in 2024. Adam is very excited and seeks to serve to the very best of his ability. This role entails serving as the liaison between the Perimeter Global Outreach office and Ubora. He will be managing projects for which Perimeter Church has so graciously provided funding, including the widows and babas programs, as well as other new church spiritual development programs, such as a children's ministry and a premarital counseling program. To reach out to welcome Adam to the new role, you can email him at **amweaver11@yahoo.com**



Terry and Lynn Mechling, thank you for your hearts and years of service for Ubora and the people of Tanzania!



Terry and Adam, Perimeter Church Country Leaders.

2023 IMPACT updates UBORA

The work of Ubora is carried out in the U.S. and Tanzania through countless team members, volunteers and donors. It truly takes a village to transform a nation! Here are a few highlights from 2023:



Congratulations to our graduating class of 2023! Collectively, this group scored the highest of any previous SLS class on the Standard 7 Primary School Leaving Exam!

Special thanks to our students, teachers, staff, and mentors who worked so hard this year to achieve this success!



Glory Naiso, picture here on the right, is one of our shining stars--first as a student at SLS, then a college graduate and intern. She has recently secured full-time employment with the Karansi Coffee Co-op.

Pamoja is the Swahili word for 'together'. Doesn't this picture capture our partnership of walking hand-in hand with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania perfectly?



Education



Creating Environments Where Children Love to Learn

SIHA LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

By: Wendy Williams
Education Impact Lead

School at SLS is always an adventure – there's the day-to-day subjects of Math, English, Swahili, Science, Social Studies and Bible infused with questions, thinking, library books, videos, field trips, exploring, wondering, Biblical world view, and the joy of learning.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words... here's a glimpse at what we've been up to!

This year we refined our Fun Friday program with time for sports and games and activities for Critical Thinking. We expanded our curriculum in Computers (on newly-upgraded computers), Nature Study and Music, and opened the door to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math). Look for much more to come in each of these areas in 2024!

While curriculum, critical thinking and learning are always on our minds, it's really the students who are on our hearts. Each and every one has a story, a unique personality and gifting, and amazing potential. To better support our S4-7 students personally and academically, we implemented a "Home room" structure and a daily tutoring opportunity. It is our prayer that as we seek to love and serve each student, the promise of Jeremiah 29:11 will come to life.

"I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



Here's to our wonderful class of 2023! THANK YOU to each of the teachers and staff who have faithfully poured into these students for ten years and to the sponsors who have made this opportunity possible. With a strong foundation of love and learning, we send them off to Secondary School with our prayers.

Mungu awabariki! May God bless each of them, and all of you!

To serve in education, email: Wendy Williams, wwilliamstz@comcast.net

BUSINESS Hope, Jobs and Stewardship



2023 At a Glance

Business Training Classes led by US teams: 3

- Feb-Business Planning
- Feb-Business Record keeping
- Aug-Business start-up training

Business Training Classes led by TZ teams: 4

- March-African Money Map
- March-Found. for Farming
- July-African Money Map
- Oct-African Money Map

Business Training Students: 101

- Trained by US team = 55
- Trained by TZ team = 46

Consulting Visits: 30

30 Trained Business people were consulted by US trainers

SLS Graduate Interns During 2023: 17

Interns Obtaining Permanent Jobs During 2023: 11

- 11 Interns have permanent jobs by 2023
- 18 Graduate Mentorships

To serve on our
Business Impact Team:
Lee Williams
lhwiliamsjr@gmail.com

"Hope is the most powerful gift!" – Elvis, SLS graduate, intern and mentee

By: Lee Williams
Business Impact Lead

Elvis is one of our graduates who made it all the way through university in Tanzania. This is how his mentor, Enrique, summarized Elvis' comments about his mentorship recently:

"Elvis spoke how HOPE is the most powerful gift he receives from mentoring: knowing that someone outside his immediate family believes in him, is praying for his success, is keeping tabs on his development, is investing time and resources in him."

Enrique went on to say: "It was a clear message from the Holy Spirit to me, delivered by Elvis, that what we are doing has meaning, that the love we are showing them is a glimpse of Jesus in action, and that we are called to do more for them and for others. These kids will be mentors to others someday, some are already mentoring without realizing it. This is a legacy."

Not long after that we got word that Elvis was offered a full-time, permanent job--along with three other graduates--all part of our mentoring program! Praise God for what he is doing through people like you, investing their time and delivering hope to young people in Tanzania!

Mentoring, internships and job placement are just a few aspects of the business impact area of Ubora. In 2023 we also delivered more training and consulting experiences through visiting teams and local Tanzanians. One of those classes taught 15 entrepreneurs how to write a business plan. Five of them submitted their plans to a competition and two of them--a milling business and a stationery store--were awarded laptops as prizes. All of them gained valuable insights into their business plans.

Also in 2023 we announced the development of a Stewardship Center. The Stewardship Center will be located in the Siha District and will offer training, consulting and other assistance that will create employment opportunities for the area, help individuals, families and businesses improve their lives and their communities, while learning and practicing biblical life and financial stewardship and agricultural principles. It is based on a model pioneered by Crown Financial Ministries in other countries. **Legacy Planning Advisors** has agreed to be our lead donor and to lend expertise as we plan this program. In many ways the Stewardship Center already exists "virtually" through the training and consulting we and our partners offer. In 2024 we expect to "flesh out" the plan as we look towards a physical center in 2025.



WIDOWS & BABAS

Women Of Faith Impact Group "Wanawake wa Imani"

2023 Year End Report

By: Cindy James and Kathy Stewart
Widows Community Impact Leads

"A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. He will cover you with His feathers. Under His wings you will find refuge." Psalm 68.5, Psalm 91.4

By the grace of God and for His purpose, 2023 proved to be another amazing year for our very special ladies in the Widow program! The women are singing praises to their heavenly protector and finding great joy and encouragement for their future through the blessings of spiritual growth and exciting economic development.

Thank you to all the hearts and hands of service, prayer, and to our wonderful donor families who are helping to make this transition possible!

Here are a few quotes from our widows...

"Now we are comfortable to sleep even if it's raining and we are even dreaming again." (widow home recipient)

"I know I can do what God wants me to do."

"I am so encouraged!"

"I have the spiritual gifts that I can use."

"I know I can make it with God's help!"

2023 Program Highlights:

- Launch of the SHARE (Shelters of Hope and Refuge) Project.
- Completion of Phase One and six new homes for Widows who are in the most desperate need.
- New spiritual gifts training program and seminars with health and vision screenings.

- Creation of "cell" discipleship and prayer groups
- New Bibles for all Widows and Babas (Grandfathers)
- New Choir and community outreach.
- Continued growth of micro businesses in coffee and soap making.
- Business skills training.
- Continued growth of Sheep Keeping and goat programs.
- Three dedicated Widow focused Ubora team trips.

2024 Program Goals:

- Completion of SHARE project Phase Two and six additional new homes with the hope and prayers of provision for more!
- Expansion of spiritual gifts training and seminars into the church community.
- Continued growth of current micro and agricultural businesses. Potential for trust groups.
- Continued development of a "Women of Faith" Sponsorship pilot program.
- Women's Literacy program
- Expanded training opportunities including parenting and family values.

"WOMEN OF FAITH GATHERINGS ARE NOW ABOUT COMING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD THAN COMING TO GET GIFTS."

- Jane, Widows Social Worker, PEFA Church Karansi



Rehema (on left) and Warialanga share a tender moment during construction of Warialanga's new widow home. Rehema is our project manager for the widows homes and is doing an exceptional job!

Community

Let the Children Come to Me Bringing the Love of Christ to Karansi through VBS

By: Carter Rhea
Community Impact Lead

Over the course of two weeks, our team of 23 co-hosted at SLS over 1,000 children (grades 1-7), with local Tanzanian teachers to put on Vacation Bible School in the mornings and an FCA Sports Camp in the afternoons. During week two, we took VBS on the road to seven local churches. "Come and See" was our theme from Psalm 66:5, "Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!"

A total of 1,780 children attended VBS! Week one we hosted 1,010 kids and had 770 kids join us for week two!

Our team led the following VBS activities for the children:

- Painting their names as they learned the names of God
- Coloring crosses and hearing the gospel
- Decorating crowns as they learned about their royal identity in God's family, and
- Making their very own gospel bracelets and teaching them how to share their testimony!

We worked in tandem with the local Tanzanian teachers to teach these spiritual lessons while the children crafted. It was a beautiful picture--working together (pamoja) as the body of Christ!

During our afternoon FCA Sports Camp, we taught Volleyball, Soccer, Flag Football and Netball with the kids. We even got to play a few pick-up games, Tanzanians vs Americans. Sports really are the great universal language. We had a blast!

How You Helped

Thank you for your financial contributions which made it possible for us to provide essential supplies, materials, and resources to the village of Karansi, SHEFO and Siha Leadership School. The children were able to receive a lunch that included meat which for some students is a rare treat and provided much needed protein.

2024 Mission Trip Opportunities - Great for Families and those with time in the summer or Christmas to visit and serve in Tanzania!

We welcome you (Karibu) to join in our 2024 VBS Trips

- June 13-25th, 2024
- June 20th-July 2nd, 2024, and
- A Christmas-themed VBS Dec 6-16th, 2024, (**Krismasi in Karansi**)

Check out details of available trips or sign up for a meeting to learn more about serving in Tanzania's VBS program for you and your family at: www.UboraTZ.org or Email: emilyweaver@UboraTZ.org



Helping to Improve Health in Karansi

Georgetown University School of Nursing Update

By: Kris Walker
Health Impact Lead

The Ubora medical team has had an exciting 2023! Our big win for the year was the culmination of the first Georgetown University (GU) School of Nursing global education trip! With this trip we had eight nursing students (a combination of Nurse Practitioner students, Nurse Midwifery and Clinical Nurse Leader students). Along with the students, we had three GU nursing department professors join us.

During the week, we held clinic for two days for the students at Ashengai Primary School. From the clinic we were able to identify a few children with immediate needs; two with problematic vision issues, several with dental needs, a few with chronic nutritional deficiencies, and many for gastrointestinal parasites.

The other weekdays were spent touring the Infectious Disease hospital in Sanya Juu, visiting a health clinic in Magadini and spending two days teaching. One day was spent with over 150 widows from Karansi during their seminar and one day at the Siha District Hospital teaching nurses.

What a blessing it was to spend time teaching and learning from each other--students, parents, medical professionals, and widows. Everyday was a new day of learning, laughing, and growing through new experiences.

Looking ahead to 2024, the medical team is excited to welcome another group from Georgetown University as well as running a second week of medical clinics in the District. We plan to run the clinics in back to back weeks with different teams of medical professionals from the US.

If you are an RN, NP, PA or MD or a nursing or medical student that may be interested in joining us in June 2024, please contact: **Kris Walker**
Email: walker.kris23@gmail.com.



Child Sponsorship Changes Lives!

Project Child Year 2023 in Review

By: Tim Neet
Ubora Project Child Director

2023 continued to be a year of firsts for Ubora Project Child!

For the first time, we had all of our eligible students fully sponsored and also provided Advocates for 11 families of our 21 fee paying students! This brings the total number of children currently in Siha Leadership School to 315 with an additional 124 Secondary School students resulting in a grand total of 439. In addition, 282 students have graduated from Form 4 with many going on to perform in Advanced Secondary, College, University and in our Internship Program.

Hundreds of gifts, letters and home visits worked to cement sponsor and student relationships.

While our Zoom face-to-face program had some challenges due to the government's rotating power outages, the good news is that by the time the new year turns the corner, we will have a new diesel-powered generator in place, significantly improving our ability to Zoom with our precious sponsored kids!

All of these students are eternally grateful for their sponsors. Can you imagine where only \$49 per month could have such long-term, personal impact for both the sponsored child and the sponsoring family?

We now have a new class of K1 students and advocates awaiting their sponsors!

Child sponsorship truly changes lives!

To learn more:

UboraTZ.org/the-kids
Email: timneet@UboraTZ.org



Gifts of Christmas clothes provided to the children of SLS from their sponsors!

Thank you to our donors and sponsors, for without your support, these stories of hope and community transformation would not be possible.

Your donations go far in helping our brothers and sisters in Tanzania in so many ways and are deeply appreciated!

Please donate today should your means allow.

Online: UboraTZ.org/donate

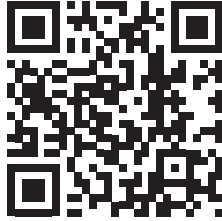
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Let's go to Tanzania! Mission Trips 2024

By: Emily Weaver, Ubora Operations Impact Manager

After an amazing year of mission trips in 2023, I'm excited to share some final updates with you.

- Nine mission trips to Karansi, Tanzania
- 84 team members chose to be the hands of feet of Jesus by going on a mission trip
- Nearly 1,800 children heard the Gospel through VBS
- More than 160 public school students received health screening and education
- Hundreds of hours of business consulting and trainings completed
- 150+ widows and babas received spiritual training seminars and community building
- Thousands of hearts impacted on both sides of the Atlantic

While looking ahead to 2024, I pray that you will prayerfully consider attending an Ubora mission trip to Tanzania in 2024. We provide safe, well-planned journeys that will give you the chance to directly impact the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Tanzania. However, I think you will find that your life will never be the same once you go! We have many trip opportunities throughout 2024 and we would love to have you on our team!



Check out the list of 2024 trips at UboraTZ.org/mission-trips

To get more information or to set up an interest session for a mission trip, please email: emilyweaver@UboraTZ.org